

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2020
(via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER:

Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

FHMS Recovery and Reopening

Several guests were in attendance for the meeting including Delegate Luke Clippinger, Councilman Eric Costello, Matt Achhammer (Liquor Board), Cathy Rosenbaum (FHMS), Ryan Rattani (BDC).

Cathy Rosenbaum and Ryan Rattani addressed the development of a plan for the recovery and reopening of the Federal Hill Main Street business district. The key focus is on expanding the footprint. Since the restaurants will only be able to hold 25 to 30% of their capacity, they will need to expand their businesses to the sidewalks and parking spaces. To accommodate this, FHMS is considering closing the north and south side of East Cross Street from Light Street to Hanover Street to make it a pedestrian walkway. It is being considered whether to close East Cross Street on a full time basis or just on weekends. Also under consideration is making Light and Charles one-way streets to allow for expanding to parking spaces. Members of the neighborhood association agreed that it was a good idea to close East Cross Street from Light to Charles and it has been discussed many times in the past. Eric Costello expressed concern about making Light and Charles one-way streets as it would impact buses and emergency vehicles. He thought that the decision regarding how often the streets would be closed would be made city-wide.

Members of the neighborhood association questioned whether restaurants would be able to serve alcohol outside since there would be tables set up outside for serving. Currently there is a fee to serve alcohol outdoors and it was questioned whether the City would waive the fees to restaurants. Luke Clippinger said that he will have to look into that but thought it would need an executive order.

Cathy and Ryan stated that they are seeking input from the businesses and neighborhood since they are going to work with the Neighborhood Design Committee to quickly put together a proposal for changes to enable recovery and reopening.

Cleaning and Greening Committee Update

Faith Millspaugh shared that Living Classrooms will begin cleaning the FHMS streets again. They are working on getting the contract signed by SBGP. There are 21 pots that have been planted and the plants were donated by Pinehurst Landscaping. The businesses near where the pots have been placed will be responsible for watering the plants.

FHNA will hold a Neighborhood Cleanup on May 27th from 6 to 8 p.m. Everyone will meet at Robert Baker Park and disperse from there. We will meet back at Robert Baker Park at 8 p.m. for a socially distant happy hour. John Bacci agreed to bring the tools required for cleanup.

May FHNA Elections

Beth shared that the FHNA Board elections are normally scheduled in May, however, it would be best to hold them in person and not virtually. There are only 2 Board members who are up for re-election (Faith Millspaugh and Nancy Gordon). Beth will follow up with more information on elections.

Beth encouraged those in attendance to renew their membership in FHNA.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.